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Another grievance among the Tula combine workers, which is well justified, is that the ministry does little to improve their living conditions. The plant has only one dining room, no shower or dressing rooms, and no club of its own. Last year, it received only 600 square meters of living space.

The Tula Plant is called upon to play a leading role among the ministry's enterprises. It must produce thousands of first-class combines. It has a great untapped potential, but it needs the ministry's help to create favorable conditions for successful operation. -- N. Verzilov and V. Novikov, special correspondents of Pravda

CONFLICTING ORDERS SNARL PRODUCTION -- Sovetskaya Litva, No 87, 12 Apr 50

The state of affairs at the "Atrama" Plant is a typical example of the lack of planning and management which characterizes the work of the Ministry of Local Industry Lithuanian SSR. A year ago, "Atrama" was a leading enterprise, but recently it has been going from bad to worse.

Last year the plant produced, among other things, iron beds. This production was disrupted by the failure of Glavsnab to supply iron. In June 1949, it was ordered by the ministry to make fire-extinguishers. Shortly afterwards, it received an order to produce instead, batteries for pocket flashlights, and to its surprise, also household soap. In December, for some unknown reason, it was instructed to take over the production of milk cans from a plant which was successfully turning out this product. The plant was totally unequipped for this type of production; besides, it met with almost insurmountable difficulties in obtaining the necessary metal.

On 20 February 1950, "Atrama" received an unsigned order from the ministry for the production of fodder-steaming machines, with a list of plants which could supply the equipment necessary for this type of production. In view of the vagueness of the order, the plants concerned yielded grudgingly only the most useless type of equipment. The press and facing lathe received from the "Pergale" Plant need capital repairs, and the roll mills (val'tsy) obtained from the "Metalas" Plant lack half their parts.

Another example of inefficiency in the ministry is the production of coulter plows. Four different plants are simultaneously engaged in mastering the process. The Kaunas Prekalas Plant makes the body, share, and moldboards; the Vil'nus Kommunaras Plant puts out the wheels; the Kaunas Metalas Plant casts the bushings; and the Rokishkis Plugas Plant makes the frames and assembles the machines. It is a matter of conjecture as to when the plows will see the light of day and what their cost will be.

A number of other plants are in difficulties through the fault of the ministry. For lack of raw materials, the "Apkaustas" Plant for Structural Ironwork did not begin to work until the end of January. The "Prekalas" Tool Plant did not get a single kilogram of rolled wire during the last 6 months of 1949 and first quarter of this year for the production of horseshoe nails. The "Neris" Foundry has been operating with standstills. -- S. Kuzin

SHELVES WORKER'S TREE-PLANTING INVENTION -- Trud, No 82, 6 Apr 50

At the Uryupinsk Leskhoz (tree farm), Stalingrad Oblast, I. Volkov has designed and produced a tree-planting seeder, called the "Universal." It differs from the existing type in that it can sow both large and small seeds. It can plant 3 hectares in 8 hours, releasing thereby three workers for other tasks. The Stalingrad Timber Administration found the machine satisfactory, and in August 1949 forwarded all the material concerning the invention to the Ministry of Forestry RSFSR, and the All-Union Forestry Scientific-Research Institute for action. However, to date neither the inventor nor the leskhoz has received any reply.

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